



# Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Vol. 5, No. 4

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## DMRS Lists Staff Updates

The Division of Mental Retardation Services announces the following people or changes to the Central Office staff:

**Terri Poff** has joined the staff as an Administrative Services Manager. She will be handling budgets, projections, Community Services Tracking system oversight and general administrative services.

**Kim Briley** is the new Distributed Programmer/Analyst. She will be working on cost plans and Community Services Tracking system issues.

**Cynthia Daniel** has changed positions and has taken on a new task as the Database Manager. She will be handling the incident and investigation tracking system, programmatic coordination, technical support and assistance, program coordination for integrated database development and provide technical assistance in other department applications.

**Carole Cope** has accepted the Director of Protection from Harm position. She will be the leadworker of all state investigators and supervise the incident management system. She will also be handling the development and implementation of policies and procedures in areas of abuse, neglect & mistreatment and oversee the training and technical assistance systems related to Protection from Harm.

## Challenger League Starts in Clarksville

A Challenger League was recently developed in Clarksville by parents who want their children to have sports opportunities that other children enjoy. This helps the children feel like they belong to something and are not just spectators anymore.

It is designed for kids ages 5 to 18 and uses a buddy system to help children bat and run. They play each Saturday on Eddie Page Field at Barksdale Elementary School on Madison Street in Clarksville.

There are enough children participating for two teams in two age groups. This helps separate skill levels and keeps the game challenging enough for the children. The 5 to 11 year olds play at 9:00 am and the 12 to 18 year olds play at 11:00 am.

Although the children have disabilities ranging from Down's Syndrome and autism to cerebral palsy, their excitement for baseball is no different than other children's. In fact, they seem to appreciate it a little more. Maybe it's the teamwork or the boost in their self-esteem.

The Challenger League is a program designed for athletes with mental and physical disabilities. It got its start several years ago as a tee-ball division of the Johnston, Iowa Little League. The joy and excitement of these athletes encouraged the organizers to offer other sporting activities. In addition to tee-ball, the league now offers indoor soccer and basketball as well as special events like picnics and bowling outings.

For more information on the Challenger League you can e-mail [sec@challenger-sports.org](mailto:sec@challenger-sports.org) or call (515) 278-0413. For information on the Clarksville league you can contact Tamara Shoemaker at (931) 387-4224 or e-mail [Tamberti4@cs.com](mailto:Tamberti4@cs.com)



### WEB POSTINGS

<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

Announcements, draft policies, final policies and information bulletins all appear on our Web site. Recent activities include:

#### FINAL POLICIES

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	EFFECTIVE DATE
1998-60 REVISED	Comm. Incidents & Investigations	Doug Burroughs	4/1/01

#### INFORMATION BULLETINS

BULLETIN NUMBER	BULLETIN TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	EFFECTIVE DATE
01-13	Over-the-counter Medications Alert	Ruth Givens	5/24/01
01-14	Drug Interactions-Clozaril Alert	Ruth Givens	5/24/01

## Baseball Lesson in Life

Derrick and his father walked by a park where some boys Derrick knew were playing baseball. Derrick asked, "Do you think they will let me play?"

Derrick's father knew most boys would not want him on the team. But the father understood. If his son were allowed to play he would feel a much-needed sense of belonging, so he asked one boy if Derrick could play.

The boy looked for guidance from his teammates. Getting none, he took matters into his own hands and said, "We are losing by six runs, and the

game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him up to bat in the ninth inning."

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Derrick's team scored but was still behind by three. In the ninth inning, Derrick put on a glove and played in the outfield. Although no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be on the field.

In the bottom of the ninth, his team scored again. With two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base. Derrick was next at-bat. Would the team actually let him hit and give away their chance to win?

Surprisingly, Derrick was given the bat. Everyone knew a hit was all but impossible because Derrick didn't know how to hold the bat, much less connect with the ball. However, as Derrick stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved up a few steps to lob the ball in softly. The first pitch came. Derrick swung clumsily and missed.

As the second pitch came in, Derrick swung and hit a slow ground ball to the pitcher. The pitcher picked it up and

could easily have thrown it to first. Derrick would have been out and the game over. Instead, he threw it on a high arc to right field, far beyond reach of the first baseman.

Everyone started yelling, "Derrick, run to first." Never in his life had he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline. Everyone yelled, "Run to second!" By the time Derrick rounded first base, the right fielder had the ball. He could have thrown the ball to second. But the right fielder understood the pitcher's intentions and threw the ball high and far over the third baseman's head.

Derrick ran toward second as his teammates headed home. As Derrick reached second, the opposing shortstop turned him toward third base, and shouted, "Run!" As Derrick rounded third, the boys from both teams were screaming, "Run home!"

Derrick ran, stepped on home plate and was cheered as the hero, for hitting a "grand slam" and winning the game for his team.



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A publication of the  
Division of  
Mental Retardation  
Services

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The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



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### Central and Regional Information Specialists

PERSON	LOCATION	PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER
Larry Grimes	Central Office-Nashville	(615)741-0376	(615)532-9940
Kay Carlton	Memphis Regional Office	(901)685-3901 Ext.134	(901)685-3919
Tricia Price	Nashville Regional Office	(615)231-5033	(615)231-5150
Fred Coe	Knoxville Regional Office	(865)588-0508 Ext.108	(865)594-5180

### Toll Free Lines For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
Memphis Regional Office	1-800-308-2586
Nashville Regional Office	1-800-654-4839
Knoxville Regional Office	1-888-310-4613

### Web Site

Commission on Compliance/  
Division of Mental Retardation  
Services Web Site:  
<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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